

Bradford and Melksham Rural District Council

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THE  
ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
AND THE  
SANITARY INSPECTOR  
for the Year 1953



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*To the Chairman and Members of the*

BRADFORD AND MELKSHAM RURAL DISTRICT  
COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year 1953, based on Ministry of Health Circular 1/54.

The District has remained free from serious epidemics throughout the year and the customary standard of good health which this district enjoys has been maintained.

An outbreak of measles, however, reached epidemic proportion with 267 cases compared with 9 and 211 in 1952 and 1951 respectively. The biennial epidemic pattern of the disease continued and as with scarlet fever few complications arose.

There was no serious influenza epidemic, while six cases of poliomyelitis were recorded.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Mr. Noble for his help and co-operation during the year, and Mrs. Hannaford and Mr. Mills for clerical and other assistance so ably and so willingly given.

Yours faithfully,

R. BRUCE KILLOH,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

## **PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY**

### **Medical Officer of Health :**

R. BRUCE KILLOH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,  
who is also Medical Officer of Health to Melksham  
Urban District.

### **Sanitary Inspector :**

W. A. NOBLE, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

### **Offices :**

The office of the Medical Officer of Health is 1, King  
Street, Melksham. Tel. Melksham 2307.

The office of the Sanitary Inspector is in Abbey House,  
Bradford-on-Avon. Tel. Bradford-on-Avon 2174.

## GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of the District (Acres)	...	...	...	26,868
Number of Parishes	...	...	...	13
Estimated Population (including Service Personnel)	...			14,640
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	3,127
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£65,279
Sum represented by a penny rate		...	...	£263.55

## EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

The following statistics have been compiled from information received from the Registrar General :—

### Births

#### Live Births

Births				Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	99	78	177
Illegitimate	...	...	...	1	1	2
Total number of live births				100	79	179

Birth Rate for the District (i.e., per 1,000 population)	12.2
Comparative figure for England & Wales	15.5

#### Still Births

Births				Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	1	1	2
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—	—
Total number of still births				1	1	2

Still Birth Rate for the District	0.14
Comparative figure for England & Wales	0.35



## Deaths

	Male	Female	Total
Number of Deaths in the Area ...	79	103	182
Local Death Rate (i.e., per 1,000 population) ...			12.43
Comparative figure for England & Wales ...			11.4

## Infant Mortality

### DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR

Deaths	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate ... ..	1	1	2
Illegitimate ... ..	—	2	2
Total number of deaths ...	1	3	4

### DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS OF AGE

Deaths	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate ... ..	1	1	2
Illegitimate ... ..	—	1	1
Total number of deaths ...	1	2	3

### INFANT MORTALITY RATE

Number of Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births ... ..	22.34
Comparative figure for England & Wales ...	26.8

## Causes of Deaths

The causes of deaths, classified according to the Registrar General's system, are given in the following table:—

	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis (respiratory) ...	—	—	—
(other) ...	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease ...	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections ...	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—
Measles ...	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic disease ...	—	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm (stomach) ...	1	2	3
(lung bronchus) ...	3	—	3
(breast) ...	—	1	1
(uterus) ...	—	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	4	10	14
Leukaemia, aleukaemia ...	—	2	2
Diabetes ...	1	1	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	16	15	31
Coronary disease, Angina ...	9	7	16
Hypertension with heart disease ...	—	—	—
Other heart disease ...	16	40	56
Other circulatory disease ...	2	2	4
Influenza ...	1	2	3
Pneumonia ...	2	4	6
Bronchitis ...	3	1	4
Other diseases of the respiratory system ...	—	—	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	1	—	1
Gastritis, Enteritis, and Diarrhoea ...	—	1	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis ...	2	—	2
Hyperplasia of prostate ...	3	—	3
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	—	—	—
Congenital malformations ...	—	—	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	9	9	18
Motor vehicle accidents ...	3	1	4
All other accidents ...	1	2	3
Suicide ...	1	2	3
Homicide and Operations of War ...	1	—	1
TOTALS ...	79	103	182

This table has been prepared from data obtained from local sources :—

### Age and Sex Incidence of Deaths from Cancer

Location of Cancer	Under 30		Under 40		Under 50		Under 60		Under 70		Under 80		Under 90	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Cancer of Bowel	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Cancer of Breast	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cancer of Lung	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cancer of Stomach	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Alimentary (other than above)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Genital	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reproductive	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

## **OUTLINE OF THE HEALTH SERVICES OPERATING IN THE AREA**

### **Laboratory Facilities**

The Public Health Laboratory, Manor Hospital, Bath, undertakes all necessary bacteriological and pathological examinations in the District.

This laboratory with its skilled staff provides a most valuable service with regard to the examination of drinking water, food and milk samples, throat swabs, etc., and their willing co-operation and expert advice is much appreciated.

### **Hospital Facilities**

The South-Western Regional Hospital Board is responsible for hospital facilities in this district.

The two hospitals in the area are a general hospital in Melksham, and a hospital for the chronic sick at Semington. Other general hospitals are situated in Devizes and Trowbridge, with larger ones in Bath and Bristol.

The nearest hospital for the treatment of common infectious disease is the Isolation Hospital at Trowbridge, while cases of Poliomyelitis are generally treated in Bath Isolation Hospital. The nearest Smallpox Hospital is at Bristol.

### **County Health Facilities**

The following health services operating in the district are provided by the County Health Committee :—

Care of expectant and nursing mothers and young children.

Domiciliary Midwifery.

Health Visiting.

Home Nursing.

Arrangements for vaccination and immunization.

Ambulances and ambulance cars.

Domestic Helps.

Arrangements under Part III of the National Health Service Act for the prevention of illness; care and after-care; and health education.

Mental Health Service.

## PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

### COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS YEARS

Disease	1951	1952	1953
Scarlet Fever ... ..	22	12	19
Whooping Cough ... ..	42	32	27
Poliomyelitis—Paralytic ...	1	1	3
Non-paralytic	4	—	3
Measles ... ..	211	9	267
Diphtheria ... ..	—	1	—
Pneumonia ... ..	6	8	23
Dysentery ... ..	8	—	—
Erysipelas ... ..	—	2	2
Meningococcal Infection ...	—	1	1

### NUMBER OF CASES AND ADMISSIONS TO HOSPITAL

Disease	Number of Cases	Admitted to Hospital
Scarlet Fever ... ..	19	1
Whooping Cough ... ..	27	—
Poliomyelitis—Paralytic ...	3	3
Non-paralytic	3	3
Measles ... ..	267	2
Diphtheria ... ..	—	—
Pneumonia ... ..	23	4
Dysentery ... ..	—	—
Erysipelas ... ..	2	—
Meningococcal Infection ...	1	1

The distribution of cases according to age and sex are shown in the following tables.

#### ANALYSIS UNDER AGE GROUPS

Age Groups	Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Acute Poliomyelitis		Measles		Diphtheria	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	—	—	4	1	—	—	—	2	—	—
1-2 years	—	1	2	3	—	—	18	15	—	—
3-4 years	—	1	6	2	1	—	43	31	—	—
5-9 years	5	2	5	3	1	—	66	62	—	—
10-14 years	—	1	—	—	1	—	4	5	—	—
15-24 years	5	1	—	—	—	—	16	2	—	—
25 and over	1	—	1	—	—	2	1	2	—	—
Not Known	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	13	6	18	9	3	3	148	119	—	—

Age Groups	Pneumonia		Dysentery		Erysipelas		Meningococcal Infection	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-14 years	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
15-44 years	17	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-64 years	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Not Known	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
TOTAL	21	2	—	—	1	1	1	—

# DISTRIBUTION IN PARISHES

Parishes	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Poliomyelitis		Measles	Pneumonia	Dysentery	Erysipelas	Diphtheria	Meningo- coccal Infection
			Paralytic	Non- Paralytic						
Atworth	—	—	—	—	15	1	—	—	—	—
Broughton Gifford	1	1	—	—	53	—	—	—	—	—
Hilperton	—	2	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—
Holt	5	15	1	—	39	1	—	—	—	—
Limpley Stoke	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Melksham Without	10	4	—	1	87	19	—	—	—	1
Monkton Farleigh	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	—
Semington	—	1	1	—	9	—	—	—	—	—
South Wraxall	—	—	1	1	34	—	—	—	—	—
Staverton	—	—	—	—	12	—	—	—	—	—
Westwood	—	2	—	—	7	—	—	1	—	—
Wingfield	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Winsley	1	2	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	19	27	3	3	267	23	—	2	—	1

## Poliomyelitis

Six cases of poliomyelitis were notified and confirmed in the District during the year. Three cases were of the paralytic type, while the other three were non-paralytic. Contrary to the misnomer of infantile paralysis, half of these cases affected young adults. One case occurred in a separate part of a building where no less than three cases had occurred in the last two years, but no apparent connection or cause for this strange coincidence could be ascertained. By the end of the year four of the cases had made a complete recovery, while the remaining two were progressing satisfactorily.

## Tuberculosis

### NEW CASES

Year				No. of cases
1951	...	...	...	10
1952	...	...	...	9
1953	...	...	...	11

Distribution of new cases according to age, sex, and localisation of disease, is as follows :—

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths	
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary			
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 Year	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5 Years	—	—	—	—	—	—
6-15 "	—	—	—	—	—	—
16-25 "	7	—	—	—	—	—
26-35 "	1	1	—	—	—	—
36-45 "	—	—	—	—	—	—
46-55 "	1	1	—	—	—	—
56-65 "	—	—	—	—	—	—
Over 65	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	9	2	—	—	—	—

Of these, 7 affected Royal Air Force personnel who were possibly infected elsewhere.

From the above table it will be seen that 11 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during 1953. No deaths from tuberculosis were recorded.



## Re-housing of Tuberculosis Patients

Cases are referred from time to time by the Chest Physician for consideration for re-housing. These cases are classified as follows :—

*Certificate No. 1.* Sputum-positive cases where re-housing is considered urgent for the prevention of infection.

*Certificate No. 2.* Where better housing would be desirable in order to improve and maintain the patient's health.

*Certificate No. 3.* Where improved housing would be beneficial but is not an urgent matter.

No certificates, requiring to be dealt with, were received during the current year.

## Mass Radiography

During February the Miniature Radiography Unit visited the New Mendip Engineering Co. A total of 146 persons attended for examination. No cases of tuberculosis and only one of non-tuberculosis disease, previously detected, was discovered. At a later date a temporary centre was set up which attracted residents from the adjoining parts of the District.

It is hoped that the Unit will make frequent return visits to the District when it may be possible to afford even greater facilities to all parts of the rural area concerned.

## Diphtheria Immunization

Diphtheria immunization is carried out systematically throughout the district by General Practitioners and County Medical Officers, in homes and schools.

Diphtheria immunization was suspended for a time during the summer owing to the prevalence of Poliomyelitis in this and neighbouring districts.

## Immunization Statistics, 1953

Number of primary immunizations completed during 1953 :—

Up to 4 years of age	...	...	...	114
From 5-14 years of age	...	...	...	19

Number of reinforcing injections administered ... 204

Total immunized child population at 31st December, 1953 :—

Up to 4 years of age	...	...	...	413
From 5-14 years of age	...	...	...	1417
TOTAL				1830

Compared with 1952 the number of primary immunizations rose from 112 to 133. Similarly the number of reinforcing injections administered rose from 189 to 204. Also the total immunized child population at the end of the year was 1830 compared with 1803.

## **Vaccination**

Number of persons vaccinated (or re-vaccinated) during 1953 :—

Age Group	Number Vaccinated	Number Re-vaccinated
Under 1 year	44	—
1-4 years	12	3
5-14 years	16	3
Over 15 years	23	19
TOTAL	95	25

Considerably more primary vaccinations were undertaken during 1953, a total of 95 compared with 44 in the previous year.

Vaccination is performed under the National Health Service by General Practitioners. Emergency clinics can be operated in the event of an outbreak of smallpox in County Health Clinics at Salisbury and Swindon. Vaccination propaganda is undertaken by the County Health Authority.

It would continue to appear that too few babies are being vaccinated at the present time, and in sharp contrast to diphtheria immunization, which is relatively popular, vaccination in infancy is in my experience inclined to be viewed with relative indifference at the present time. Everything possible, therefore, requires to be done toward stimulating public opinion in favour of vaccination and impressing on them the constant danger of smallpox outbreaks in a poorly protected community.

## **Food Poisoning**

There were no outbreaks or suspected cases of food poisoning in the district during 1953.

## **National Assistance Act, 1948**

### **SECTION 47 : REMOVAL TO SUITABLE PREMISES OF PERSONS IN NEED OF CARE AND ATTENTION**

During the year, the aged couple previously under review, were admitted to hospital on account of acute illness and frailty. Compulsory removal was not, however, found necessary.

This latter step is one that should only be considered after all the assistance that can be given by Home Helps, District Nurses, National Assistance Officers and Welfare Officers, etc., has failed to provide the care and attention needed, and it is felt that there is need for more co-ordination of these services which are available to assist the aged and infirm.

# REPORT

## OF THE

### SANITARY INSPECTOR

---

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to present my sixth Annual Report to this Council.

Once again it can be said that we have had a year of steady progress, but the Report will show that it is impossible, with the present staff, to give the detailed attention due to every branch of the work.

I would mention my gratitude to the Chairman and Members of the Council and Committees for ready guidance on policy matters, to Dr. Killoh for his co-operation, and to Miss Gatt for her willing clerical assistance. The Rodent Operator and the six members of the Refuse Collection and Disposal Staff have again worked admirably.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. NOBLE,

*Sanitary Inspector.*

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#### STAFF

Clerk/Typist	MISS M. S. WELLS (resigned 31st January, 1953) MISS B. GATT (from 19th January, 1953)
Rodent Operator	MR. A. J. BODDY (off duty owing to illness from 18th May, 1953, until 17th August, 1953) MR. R. B. J. CLEVERLEY (during Mr. Boddy's absence)
Refuse Collection	MR. J. H. GOODENOUGH MR. R. HINTON (off duty owing to illness from 11th June, 1953, until 26th October, 1953) MR. D. J. BURT (resigned 2nd May, 1953) MR. J. T. GILES (from 8th June, 1953) MR. R. C. TROTT (from 28th September, 1953)
Tip Operators	MR. T. COX (retired 4th November, 1953) MR. P. SAWYER

## MEAT AND FOODS

			Number	Inspections	Notices Served	Notices complied with
Bakchouses	...	...	3	8	2	2
Slaughterhouses	...	...	3	12	—	—
Butchers' Shops	...	...	3	4	—	—
Catering Establishments	...	...	39	3	1	1
Food Shops	...	...	38	15	2	2
Licensed Premises	...	...	30	19	—	—
Licensed Slaughtermen	...	...	5	—	—	—

*Note*—It will be noticed throughout this report that on occasion, more notices are shown as "complied with" than "served." This is explained by work, requested in 1952, being completed in 1953.

During the year, 18 horses have been killed for human consumption.

It is of interest to say that no evidence of Tuberculosis was observed, and that the meat is remarkably free from disease.

There has been some national publicity regarding alleged cruel practices in connection with the slaughter of horses. During the frequent visits made to the slaughterhouse in this district, I have never seen any cruelty and I consider that the horses are handled with maximum consideration.

At various other premises, the following articles were condemned :—

Ox Tongues	...	...	...	...	2 tins
------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	--------

Wherever possible the condemned food is re-processed or used for animal foodstuffs.

At the end of the year, there was legislation pending which would give Local Authorities greater power regarding food premises and would entail registration of catering establishments. This is to be welcomed as a further step to improve food hygiene but additional staff will be required to make the detailed visits and ensure high standards.

With the co-operation of the Director of the Public Health Laboratory Service at Bath, it is hoped to commence in 1954 a modest routine of checking the efficiency of dish washing at catering establishments. A powder dusting test is to be utilized

and the opportunity will be taken of discussing food hygiene with the proprietors. This will form part of our food hygiene campaign which has already included visits and the issue of circulars.

## ICE CREAM

			Number	Inspections	Notices Served	Notices complied with
Retailers	...	...	20	219	—	—
Manufacturers	...	...	—	—	—	—

The results of the year's sampling are set out below. Enquiries and check samples are made following a poor sample result. All the ice cream is manufactured outside this district.

The Council's policy of registering general stores for the sale of pre-packed ice cream only coupled with the fact that ice cream manufacture is now in the hands of large firms, is reflected in the satisfactory sample results.

Total Number of Samples	...	...	...	160
-------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----

## PERCENTAGE OF SAMPLES

Grade I	Grade I or II	Grade III	Grade IV
83%	97%	2%	1%

The Public Health Laboratory Service suggests that 50% of a vendor's samples should fall into Grade I, 80% into Grade I or II, no more than 20% into Grade III and none into Grade IV.

## MILK AND DAIRIES

### MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS

				Number	Inspections	Notices Served	Notices complied with
Dairies	...	...	...	1	} 204	—	—
Distributors	...	...	...	12			
Producer/Retailers	...	...	...	35			



## MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) REGULATIONS

"Tuberculin Tested" Dealers' Licences	...	...	3
"Pasteurised" Dealers' Licences	...	...	3
Supplementary "Tuberculin Tested" Dealers' Licences	...		6
Supplementary "Pasteurised" Dealers' Licences	...		3

Set out below are the sample results of "designated" milk.

Number of "Tuberculin Tested" Milk Samples	...	99
Number of satisfactory "Tuberculin Tested" Milk Samples		76
Number of "Pasteurised" Milk Samples	...	69
Number of satisfactory "Pasteurised" Milk Samples	...	65
Number of Biological Samples for Tubercle Bacillus and Brucella Abortus	... ..	22
Number of satisfactory Biological Samples	...	22

It appears that as from the 1st October, 1954, "Pasteurised" milk will have to be supplied to retailers in bottles filled at the pasteurising premises. This is welcomed and should result in an improvement.

## WATER

Number of Public Water Supplies in the District	...	14
Number of Bacteriological Samples obtained during 1953		81
Number of Samples taken for chemical analysis during 1953	... ..	—

Appendix "A" of this Report sets out the sample results for the year.

One village supply has been mainly discontinued and the Council's Surveyor has various schemes in hand which will result in considerable unification and improvement.

I am not in a position to give, with any degree of accuracy, the number of houses and the population in each Parish supplied from public water mains direct to houses, or by means of stand-pipes. None of the water supplies appears to be liable to plumb-solvent action.

A typical report of a satisfactory bacteriological examination is given below :—

# PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE

Manor Hospital,  
Combe Park,  
Bath.

## WATER

### BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION REPORT

Authority—Bradford and Melksham Rural District Council

Nature of Sample—Water Sample taken from tap

Date and Hour of Collection—7/4/53, 10.25 a.m.

Probable number of coliform bacilli MacConkey 2 days, 37°C  
less than 1 per 100 ml.

Probable number of faecal coli ... .. none demonstrated

### FACTORIES

	Number	Inspections	Notices Served	Notices complied with
Factories with power ...	26	34	6	1
Factories without power ...	2	2	1	—
Outworkers ... ..	116	13	—	—

The requirements of the Factories Act, 1937, appear to be complied with but it is not possible to make as many inspections as are really necessary. Full details, as required by the Ministry, are contained in Appendix "B."

### SHOPS

	Number	Inspections	Notices Served	Notices complied with
Shops ... ..	39	20	—	—

Once again, pressure of other work has rendered it impossible to make the required inspections to ensure compliance with the Shops Act, 1950.

### PETROLEUM

	Number	Inspections	Notices Served	Notices complied with
Licensed Premises ...	39	14	2	1

Various Licence Holders have installed new pumps, and endeavours are made to ensure that there is compliance with the Model Conditions in respect of electrical equipment associated with petrol service pumps.



## MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

	Number	Inspections	Notices Served	Notices complied with
Site Licences ...	14	} 121	8	8
Individual Licences ...	—			
Licences Refused ...	—			

It is pleasing to report that no complaints have been received during the year regarding gipsies at Norrington Common, Broughton Gifford.

The Council agreed to a site licence being amended to allow 9 caravans instead of 6 at a farm in the district. An additional standpipe and increased drainage facilities have been provided. Individual caravans continue to be placed in the district and the Council either require their removal or, subject to satisfactory water supply, drainage, etc., license the site. There are indications that with the easing of the housing shortage, this problem will not present so many difficulties in the future.

## RODENT CONTROL

Number of visits made by Rodent Operator ...	1,008
Estimated number of rats destroyed ...	3,655
Estimated number of mice destroyed ...	67

Details, in the form required by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, are given in Appendix "C."

The Rodent Operator spends 2 weeks out of 4 on rodent control for this Council. Ready co-operation with the Pests Officers of the Agricultural Executive Committee is appreciated and leads to a smooth public service.

Mr. Boddy underwent an operation during the year and was off duty for 3 months. We were fortunate in obtaining, for this period, the services of the former Rodent Operator.

All 3 sewerage systems have been test baited during the year and only one manhole showed evidence of rats. In this case, a branch sewer was baited and poison laid.

## REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

This service, with a weekly collection, has been maintained throughout the year with remarkably few complaints. Credit is due to the driver and loaders for this satisfactory record.

Various staff changes have taken place and one man was away ill for several months.

The erection of new houses, both private and Council, have stretched this service to its limits and overtime has become a regular feature. It is to be hoped that some extension of the service to include an additional lorry, will be possible so that the routine can include a little spare time for regular attention and servicing of the vehicle. To have one large lorry to deal with the large eastern area of the district and the 7 cubic yard lorry to negotiate the awkward lanes in the western portion would render this service far less precarious.

The Treasurer of the Council has been kind enough to extract from his records and compile the statement of Income and Expenditure given in Appendix "D" of this report.

### SALVAGE

During the year, the following items of salvage have been sold :—

			Weight	Approx. Value
Waste Paper	...	...	36 tons 0 cwt. 3 qrs.	£162 3 4
Bones	...	...	2 cwts. 0 qr.	10 0
Scrap Metal	...	...	4 tons 19 cwts. 0 qr.	£19 16 0
TOTAL ...				£182 9 4

During the year the price of £4 : 10 : 0 per ton has remained constant for salvaged paper. Hopes are entertained that this price will improve but in the meantime the Council are saving this raw material, keeping householders in the habit of putting salvage for collection and although not getting any great return we are probably not running this item at a loss.

### CESSPOOL EMPTYING SERVICE

This service, brought into operation in 1948, has been utilized to clear 290 cesspools and septic tanks during 1953.

The contractors, employed by the Council, visit the district every 3 months.

The growth of the service can be judged by the following figures :—

1948	...	...	75 clearances
1949	...	...	98 clearances
1950	...	...	120 clearances
1951	...	...	175 clearances
1952	...	...	234 clearances
1953	...	...	290 clearances

## HOUSING

Number of houses inspected and recorded	...	...	6
Number of houses suitable for action under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936	...	...	—
Number of houses suitable for action under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936	...	...	6
Number of Demolition Orders issued	...	...	—
Number of undertakings accepted under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936	...	...	—
Number of notices under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936	...	...	—

With the issue in November, 1953, of the Government White Paper entitled "Houses—The Next Step," it appears that a bold approach is to be made to the difficult problem of deteriorating cottage property and the allied problem of rent restriction. This White Paper foreshadows legislation which will be welcomed but it will inevitably create a large amount of work which will entail additional trained staff. Local Authorities must accept this burden willingly in order to adequately deal with poor property which should be either re-conditioned or demolished.

During the year, two Improvement Grants under the Housing Act, 1949, were made, two applications were in the hands of the Ministry at the end of the year and details of another application are in the course of preparation.

## PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

Number of inspections	...	...	84
Number of informal notices served	...	...	52
Number of statutory notices served	...	...	—
Number of informal notices complied with	...	...	76
Number of statutory notices complied with	...	...	—

A summary of work carried out by informal action is given in Appendix "E" of this report.

## RIVERS, STREAMS AND SEWERAGE

Informal action has been taken in various parts of the district to prevent pollution of streams and water courses. Sewer ditches continue to be a problem. Only three of the 13 Parishes (Winsley, Hilperton and Holt) have sewerage systems, but additional schemes are envisaged by the Surveyor to the Council.

Dr. Moore's swabs have been utilized in a certain ditch in the district and the Bacteriologist reported that no intestinal pathogens were isolated.

The Council's policy of insisting on downward filtration before any effluent from new sewage disposal plants can be discharged to a ditch or village drain, should prevent further pollution of ditches.

## **SWIMMING BATHS**

There are no swimming baths or pools open to the public in this area. Various samples and some advisory work was undertaken for a private pool at a school.

## **SMOKE ABATEMENT**

No formal action was found to be necessary during the year with regard to smoke abatement but ready co-operation was obtained from a haulage firm in one case of excessive fumes from a diesel driven lorry.

## **RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951**

Number of Premies Registered	...	...	...	2
Number of Visits	...	...	...	5
Number of Samples obtained	...	...	...	5

Samples of rag flock, feathers, kapok and cotton felt were obtained and in each case the Prescribed Analyst gave a satisfactory report.

A typical certificate is given below :—

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

### *Analyst's Certificate*

I CERTIFY that I have subjected the sample of Rag Flock received by me from the Sanitary Inspector, Bradford and Melksham Rural District Council, Abbey House, Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire, on 8th January, 1953, and marked Sample No. 11 to the undermentioned tests in accordance with the Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Regulations, 1951, and that the results of these tests were as shown hereunder :—



Tests	Requirements of 1951 Regulations	Results
Chlorine Content	Not to contain more than 30 parts per 100,000 of chlorine in the form of soluble chlorides	16 parts per 100,000
Oil Content	Not to contain more than 5% of oil and soap	1.4%
Soap Content	Not to contain more than 5% of oil and soap	0.8%
Soluble Impurities	Not to contain more than 1.8% of soluble impurities	(i) 1.4% (ii) 1.3% (iii) 1.3%
		Average 1.3%

Remarks : Sample satisfactory.

Date : 15th January, 1953.

(Signed) John Hudson,  
Prescribed Analyst.

### **PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951**

Number of Premises Licensed	...	...	...	2
Number of Visits	...	...	...	3

Mention should be made of the very ready co-operation and expert advice given by the R.S.P.C.A. Inspector.

### **HEATING APPLIANCES (FIREGUARDS) ACT, 1952**

There is only one retailer of heating appliances in this district and his attention has been drawn to the Act and the 1953 Regulations. As the requirements do not apply to existing stock until the 1st October, 1954, further visits and investigations will be made next year.

### **PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE**

The new Public Health Laboratory Service at Manor Hospital, Bath, has proved to be of great value and the difficulties of sending samples of water, ice cream and milk are greatly diminished.

### **GENERAL**

The following visits have been made in connection with miscellaneous items requiring attention :—

Drainage	...	...	...	...	588
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	179
Salvage	...	...	...	...	18
Miscellaneous Housing visits, including visits to Council House applicants (for allocation of insanitary and overcrowding points) and Small Dwellings Acquisition Act enquiries	...	...	...	...	96
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	8
Refuse Collection and Disposal	...	...	...	...	183
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	40

# **APPENDIX "A"                      BACTERIOLOGICAL                      WATER SAMPLE RESULTS, 1953**

Name of Supply.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Remarks
Avoncliff Supply	S(1)	—	—	S(1)	—	S(1)	—	—	S(1)	—	—	—	Chlorinated supply.
Chalfield Supply	S(1)	—	—	S(1)	—	—	S(1)	—	—	S(1)	—	—	Chlorinated supply.
Conkwell Supply	S(1)	—	—	S(1)	—	—	U(1)	—	—	U(1)	—	—	Warning notice fixed in January, 1949
Combe Down Water Company	S(1)	—	—	S(1)	—	S(1)	—	—	S(1)	—	—	—	Chlorinated supply.
Holt Water Company	S(1)	—	—	S(1)	—	—	S(1)	—	—	S(1)	—	—	Chlorinated supply.
Limpley Stoke Middle Village Spring Supply	U(1)	—	—	U(1)	—	U(1)	—	—	U(1)	—	—	—	Warning notice fixed in March, 1949
Limpley Stoke Lower Village Spring Supply	U(1)	—	—	S(1)	—	U(1)	—	—	U(1)	—	—	—	Warning notice fixed in January, 1949
Monkton Farleigh Ministry of Works Supply	S(1)	—	—	S(1)	—	—	S(1)	—	S(1)	—	—	—	Chlorinated supply.

*Note*—S denotes satisfactory result. U denotes unsatisfactory result due to presence of faecal coli. (Number) denotes number of samples obtained during the month.

# APPENDIX "A" (continued) BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER SAMPLE RESULTS, 1953

Name of Supply.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Remarks
Chippenhams Water Scheme	S(1)	—	—	S(1)	—	—	S(1)	—	S(1)	—	—	—	Chlorinated supply.
Norrington Common Supply	S(1)	—	—	S(1)	—	—	S(1)	—	—	S(1)	—	—	—
Staples Hill Dip Hole Supply	U(1)	—	—	S(1)	—	U(1)	—	—	U(1)	—	—	—	Warning notice fixed in August, 1949.
Turleigh Troughs Supply	U(1)	—	—	S(1)	—	S(1)	—	—	U(1)	—	—	—	Warning notice fixed in August, 1949
Trowbridge Water Board	S(1)	—	—	S(1)	—	—	S(1)	—	—	S(1)	—	—	Chlorinated supply.
Sandridge Lane Dip Hole Supply	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	U(1)	—

*Note*—S denotes satisfactory result. U denotes unsatisfactory result due to presence of faecal coli. (Number) denotes number of samples obtained during the month.

## APPENDIX "B"

### FACTORIES

Inspections	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are enforced by Local Authority (non-power) ... ..	2	2	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (power) ... ..	26	34	3	—
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	—	—	—	—

  

Defects	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Drainage of Floors (S.6) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or Defective ... ..	4	2	—	1	—



## PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Report for 15 months ended 31st March, 1954

	Type of Property				
	Local Authority (1)	Dwelling Houses (2)	Agri-cultural (3)	All other (including business premises) (4)	Total (5)
I. Total number of properties in Local Authority's District ... ..	5	2950	220	316	3491
II. Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during the 15 months ended 31st March, 1954, as a result of (a) notification, (b) survey under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, (c) otherwise, e.g., when visited primarily for some other purpose ...	(a) — (b) 5 (c) —	35 337 23	3 96 —	6 24 179	44 462 202
III. Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by rats ...	Major 5 Minor —	50 53	— 7	5 5	60 65
IV. Number of properties inspected which were found to be seriously infested by mice ... ..	—	3	—	—	3
V. Number of infested properties treated by the Local Authority ... ..	5	106	—	10	121
VI. Number of notices served under Section 4 : (1) Treatment ... .. (2) Structural Works (i.e., Proofing) ...	— —	1 —	— —	— —	1 —

# APPENDIX "C" (continued)

## PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Report for 15 months ended 31st March, 1954

		Type of Property				
		Local Authority (1)	Dwelling Houses (2)	Agri-cultural (3)	All other (including business premises) (4)	Total (5)
VII.	Number of cases in which default action was taken by the Local Authority following the issue of a notice under Section 4	—	—	—	—	—
VIII.	Legal Proceedings	—	—	—	—	—
IX.	Number of "block" control schemes carried out	Eight				

## APPENDIX "D"

### HOUSE REFUSE — EXPENDITURE IN YEAR 1953/54

(Extracted and compiled by the Treasurer of the Council)

#### REFUSE COLLECTION :

Labour :	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Wages and Insurance ...	1261	12	6						
Salvage Bonus ...	40	5	3						
Protective clothing ...	15	16	9						
	<hr/>			1317	14	6			
<b>Transport :</b>									
Garage rent ...	13	0	0						
R.F. Licence ...	43	2	0						
Insurance ...	6	17	6						
Petrol and Oil ...	423	18	10						
Tyres and tubes ...	98	16	3						
Repairs, etc. ...	81	9	7						
Other expenses ...	1	8	0						
	<hr/>			668	12	2			
<b>Other items of expenditure</b> ...				25	9	8			
				<hr/>			2011	16	4

#### REFUSE DISPOSAL :

<b>Labour :</b>									
Wages and Insurance ...	622	19	1						
Baling waste paper ...	54	2	9						
Protective clothing ...	10	11	2						
	<hr/>			687	13	0			
<b>Other expenses</b> ...				25	14	4			
				<hr/>			713	7	4
							<hr/>		
							£2725	3	8
							<hr/>		

### HOUSE REFUSE — INCOME IN YEAR 1953/54

Sales of salvage ...	177	9	2
Use of Refuse Tips ...	33	0	0
	<hr/>		
	£210	9	2
	<hr/>		

Total petrol consumed—1,908 $\frac{3}{4}$  galls.; Mileage—14,027; Miles p.g.—7·349

	Collection	Disposal	Total
Unit costs : Net cost per 1,000 population ...	183	46	229
Net cost per 1,000 premises ...	664	166	830

Labour and transport costs as percentages of total gross expenditure :—

Labour ...	74
Transport ...	25

## APPENDIX "E"

### SUMMARY OF IMPROVEMENTS AND WORK OBTAINED BY INFORMAL ACTION

Bakehouses—re-decorated	...	...	2	Premises connected to public sewer	...	18
Food Shops—re-decorated and improved storage facilities	...	...	2	Ditches—cleansed	...	5
Factories—cleansing of sanitary accommodation	...	...	2	Houses—repairs	...	5
Rodent Control—removal of rubbish	...	...	3	Houses—cleansed	...	1
Petroleum—new tanks in improved position	...	...	1	Houses—main water connections	...	10
Drainage—improvements and new systems	...	...	20	Moveable Dwellings—removed	...	4
Drainage—choked drains cleared	...	...	3	Moveable Dwellings—works for drainage and water supply	...	4
				Houses—improved—provision of baths and hot water system	...	2



